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USSR Agrees To Supply Defense Equipment

BK091626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet Union has agreed to supply sophisticated equipment to strengthen India's defense forces. All-India Radio correspondent understands that supplies from the Soviet Union would include equipment with higher strike power for the Army, advanced technology aircraft, and latest fencing systems to increase capabilities of sight, surveillance, and detection of naval ships.

These decisions followed wide-ranging talks the Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, had during the last few days of his stay in India. Marshal Ustinov and his delegation are leaving Delhi for Moscow tomorrow.

Our correspondent adds that during the talks between the Soviet delegation led by Marshal Ustinov and the Indian delegation led by the defense minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, there was common attitude, approach, and perception of the security environment both global and regional.

Our correspondent understands that the Soviet Union has agreed to consider with a greater sense of urgency the equipment plans of the Indian Army. These include increased quantities of equipment with greater sophistication and higher strike power. The Indian and Soviet delegations discussed the need for a suitable air defense system in light of the current and future security perceptions. The Soviet side will make available advanced technology aircraft and consider the Indian request for requisite electronic countermeasure systems. For the Navy, it was decided to fix the ships under construction with the latest fencing systems and to develop in the process of interaction electronic capabilities. This would help in containing developing threats in the Indian Ocean area.

AFP Report

BK091555 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpt] New Delhi, March 9 (AFP) — The Soviet Union has agreed to supply India with sophisticated new military equipment, including advanced aircraft and the latest surveillance systems, well-informed sources said here today.

The Soviet defense supplies would also include equipment to boost the Indian Army's striking power and systems for the detection and tracking of ships, they said.

Agreements covering the supplies are understood to have been concluded at the final round of discussions between a Soviet delegation led by Defense Minister Marshal Dimitriy Ustinov and an Indian team led by Defence Minister Ramaswamy Venkataraman today.

The sources added that a shared approach to both global and regional security problems by the two sides led to the decision to both quicken the pace of Soviet arms supplies to India and increase the sophistication of the equipment provided.

Under the new agreement, Indian naval ships under construction would be fitted with the latest detection and systems and their electronic capabilities would be developed to enable them to contain developing threats in the Indian Ocean area, well-informed sources said.

Marshal Ustinov has said he shared India's concern over the militarisation of Pakistan; and said after arriving here Monday he understood India's wish to strengthen its defence.

The Soviet side appreciated India's need to develop home production of equipment and evaluation systems to reduce its dependence on foreign suppliers, and offered extensive help to achieve this, the sources said.

Marshal Ustinov, who headed a 55-member civilian and military delegation, visited a defence equipment factory in Nasik, on the west coast, where the MIG-21 and 23 versions are being built, a T-72 tank factory in Madras, southern India, and the naval shipyard of Visakhapatnam on the southeast coast.

Mr Venkataraman told Parliament Tuesday that India wanted to buy an improved version of the Soviet MIG aircraft, an apparent reference to MIG-29 fighter bombers. He said the improved version of the MIG would be superior to U.S.-made F-16's sold to Pakistan.

Marshal Ustinov, who is due to leave for home tomorrow morning, has had two meetings with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and detailed talks with Mr Venkataraman during his visit. He reviewed Indo-Soviet relations and the international situation during a meeting with Foreign Minister P.V.Narasimha Rao today, sources said here.

A number of agreements were also reached during working meetings between Soviet delegates and Indian officials, well-informed sources said. Details were expected to be announced in Parliament shortly.

Explaining India's defence policy, Mr Venkataraman told Parliament on Tuesday that Mirage 2,000 interceptors might be required for greater agility while the Anglo-French Jaguar, which India already had in service, might be needed for deep penetration.

India has ordered 40 Mirage 2,000 from the French firm Marcel Dassault and the first six are to be delivered this year. The Indian Air Force has about 100 Jaguars and is manufacturing them under licence at the rate of about eight a year. It also has several hundred MIG-21's, MIG-23's and MIG-27's made in the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics workshops.

USSR's Ustinov Comments on Talks, Departs 10 March

BK100754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, has expressed deep satisfaction over his talks with Indian leaders. He told newsmen at Delhi airport this morning on his departure for Moscow that his visit had further increased mutual under-

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SPA: Soviets Deploying Cubans To Fight Mujahidin

LD192029 Riyadh SPA in English 1912 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Islamabad, March 19, SPA -- The Soviets are deploying a large number of Cuban troops to fight Afghan mujahideen, a prominent Afghan leader was quoted as saying by Western diplomatic sources here today.

Muhammad Khaled Faroqui, a mujahideen leader who fought in the Orgun front in Afghanistan's eastern Paktia Province said the mujahideen had ample proof of Cuban presence in Afghanistan, adding that the mujahideen had captured a number of Cubans.

Karmal New Year Message Stresses Peace, Security

LD200722 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 19, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal has reiterated Afghanistan's desire to have good relations with its neighbours regardless of having different socioeconomic systems, to live with them in an atmosphere of peace and security and to promote friendship and mutual cooperation.

In his televised message on the eve of the Afghan new year (beginning tomorrow) Babrak Karmal said that "we have always expressed our readiness for ensuring peace and security in the region and the necessary steps have always been taken for achieving these ends."

General secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA said that peace and security in the region, peaceful coexistence and good neighbourliness are the urgent needs of the time, which are desired by all the Muslim and working people of Afghanistan, same as the people of Pakistan, Iran and other countries and that the government of the DRA will be taking all the necessary measures for the attainment of these goals.

Babrak Karmal called upon the governments of the neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Iran to take the objective facts of the region and the time into account and to review their unrealistic policies vis-a-vis the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and to respond positively to the reasonable stand of the DRA with a view to resolve the issues through negotiations based on goodwill, and mutual respect.

"There exists a rational basis in the proposals of the DRA for the solution of the issues around Afghanistan. In our view, the Geneva talks contain positive aspects, we are looking forward for its continuation and expect that such contacts would provide the ground for direct talks between the interested countries," Babrak Karmal emphasised.

However, he said, our neighbours do not give a positive response to the righteous approach of the DRA. We are confident that our neighbouring brothers, the peoples of Pakistan and Iran who have strong historical ties with the people of Afghanistan, understanding the correctness of the stand taken by the DRA will persuade their governments to respond to the call of the DRA for restoration of an atmosphere of peace and security in the region.

Babrak Karmal said that the foreign policy of Afghanistan is not only directed towards the stabilisation of peace and security in the region but "we consider it our main duty to defend peace and security in the international arena. Pursuing this policy, the state of the DRA strongly condemns the strivings of imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism directed towards the intensification of tension in the world and intervention in the internal affairs of independent countries and its militaristic and war-mongering policy."

Reviewing the achievements of the revolutionary state in the Afghan Year, Babrak Karmal noted that thousands of former counter-revolutionary bands joined hands with their revolutionary government and the party and took part in the defence of the April Revolution. As also, the security forces of the DRA were able to deal crushing blows to the counter-revolution.

In the context of democratisation of the life of people and society, Babrak Karmal said that the law of local organs of the state power and administration was enacted for the first time in the history of the country which lays a firm foundation for the creation of a real democracy and for the successful activity of the new, democratic and really popular local organs.

Referring to development of national economy, Babrak Karmal said that the gross national product grew by six per cent. Successes were also scored in the spheres of trade, transport, social services, education, public health as well as in communications. The party and the state of the DRA gave considerable attention to the peasants of the country by providing them with loans on easy terms, fertilizers, improved sowing seeds, agricultural tools, machinery and other items. As a result of these steps, the agricultural and livestock yields showed all round increase. Babrak Karmal expressed the confidence of scoring ever further successes in these spheres in the new year 1363 which would be a year of peace, progress and prosperity.

Second Conference of Ulema, Clergy Held 16 March

LD170948 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The second conference of DRA ulema and clergy was held this morning at the Intercontinental Hotel. The conference was attended by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers.

The conference was chaired by Saleh Mohammad Ziray, Politburo member, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and chairman of the NFF Central Council, and formally opened after the recitation of verses from the holy Koran.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that after the reading of the conference agenda by the session chairman, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand spoke about the policy and measures of the party and the revolutionary government regarding the sacred religion of Islam:

On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council Presidium, the DRA Council of Ministers, and of

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Karmal Addresses PDPA Meeting 17 March

LD201558 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held yesterday, chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council. The session thoroughly discussed and assessed a comprehensive plan for the consolidation of state power in localities.

The comprehensive plan includes political, social, economic, and cultural (?measures) which are being implemented in the country's provinces and regions. In accordance with the plan, all party and government organs in the provinces, districts, and subdistricts are assigned the mission of implementing the draft measures in connection with the creation of organizational cells, organizational and political work among the people, the tasks laid down by the party and state in the regions, the performance of social and economic work in the interest of the people, particularly in the area of social security, the repair and reconstruction of public establishments, schools, health centers, bridges, water supply, and so forth.

In a resolution, the Politburo specified the tasks of zonal and provincial headquarters to implement the complex plan. The politburo session thoroughly discussed and assessed the results of the implementation of the state plan and budget during 1362 [1983], the draft plan for the DRA's socioeconomic growth and the state budget for 1363. Several reports were heard in the session in this regard. The draft plan and state budget for 1363 submitted by the Council of Ministers was approved. Specific duties were assigned for the implementation to the Council of Ministers, the State Planning Committee, the Ministry of Finance, and the party committees and social organizations.

Addressing the session, Babrak Karmal said: The assessment shows that despite the economic banditry of the counterrevolutionaries, the country's economic situation in 1362 enjoyed relative stability, and the state plan and budget for 1363 has been drafted completely realistically.

In referring to weak aspects of work, shortcomings, deficiencies in the implementation of the plan and enforcement of the government budget in 1362, Babrak Karmal said: The State Planning Committee, the Ministry of Finance, other ministries and departments, party committees, and social organizations should pay responsible attention to the task of immediately removing shortcomings and undeviated implementation of the instructions of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo on the 1362 plan and government budget.

He further said: Maximum and effective utilization should be made in particular of textile mills. Intensive measures should be taken for the restoration of destroyed enterprises. The process of commencing production in new enterprises should be hastened. Care should be taken to pay serious attention to productive enterprises which strengthen the national economy and ease public needs.

The State Planning Committee, in consultation with the Ministries of Commerce and Mines and Industries and the Economic Council,should take specific measures to increase factory output and reactivate idle enterprises in the private sector. Moreover, efforts should be made to attract the cooperation of entrepreneurs and national traders in the party and government economic plans to better organize investment in industry and trade. Effective measures should be taken to increase the country's foreign currency reserves.

Serious efforts should be made to review major price indices in harmony with the people's buying power and the government's economic ability. A proper system to fix prices and their subsequent control should be created. Harmful fluctuations should come under the supervision and serious control of the government. The principle of economizing should be seriously observed and specific measures should be taken towardfinancial discipline and fulfullment and overfulfillment of the government's income plan.

In his assessment of the government plan and budget for 1363, Babrak Karmal concluded: The objectives of the plan for the restoration of economic order and further stability in the country's economy to enhance the socioeconomic standard of living of the toiling masses should be implemented in practice by using all power and possibilities together with the observation of reasonable economies in the government's regular and development budget. The role of government planning should be enhanced by strengthening planning discipline and responsible behavior of ministries and departments implementing the plan.

Babrak Karmal's instructions for the country's socioeconomic plans are being kept in mind and will be utilized in the process of implementing the government's planned budget for 1363.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo also approved the establishment of the Ministry of Light Industry and Foodstuff and the General Department of Civil Aviation under the DRA Council of Ministers.

The Ministry of Light Industry and Foodstuff is being formed to improve the activities of light industry and foodstuff enterprises and to increase the production of foodstuff and consumer goods. The General Department of Civil Aviation under the Council of Ministers is being formed to improve air transport and better organize the use of planes, aviation techniques, and new airports. The approval of the two new organizations is in line with gradual and reasonable reforms in government administraiton and improving government work without increasing expenses.

AFP: Rebels Hit Convoys, Await Panjshir Offensive

OW202132 Hong Kong AFP in English 2008 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Islamabad, March 20 (AFP) — Afghan opposition fighters have this month destroyed some 75 Kabul-bound Soviet supply trucks, causing sharp fuel and food shortages in the Afghan capital, Western diplomatic sources here said today.

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4 Die, 7 Injured in Kabul Mosque Explosion

LD221823 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Announcement by High Council of Ulema and Religious Leaders of Democratic Republic of Afghanistan]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The criminal hands of the false claiments and defenders of American-type Islam, shortly after the greatest gathering of ulema and patriotic religious leaders in the history of the country was held, were again stained with the pure blood of the faithful to Almighty God. The servants of America, these non-Muslim rebels, in a hateful crime, martyred four noble ulemas who were the servants of the faith of Prophet Mohammad — peace be upon him and his family.

An explosion took place inside the Polytechnic Mosque [as heard], place of prayer for Muslims and the house of God, on the same day Ronald Reagan, head of international intimidators and terrorists, declared it a so-called day of mourning for the American type of Islam in Afghanistan.

Reagan and his murderous collaborators, reactionaries, and hegemonists are, with all their power, bent on cleansing the planet Earth of Islam, except for the American type of Islamic worship, the one which remains in the service of the interests of the blood-sucking imperialists and except for those masked servants who, instead of praying to Almighty God, pray to the door of America and who, instead of facing Kaa'ba, turn their face to the tyranny of the White House.

It is obvious why the war-mongering imperialists, who are hostile to the people of God, shed the blood of Muslims in Palestine by the hands of the Zionist butchers and shed the blood of Muslims in Lebanon with guns and bombers.

The puppets of America in Pakistan have transformed the land of Muslims into a great prison and place of torture for them. It is the United States and the blood-letting Zionists who have usurped the holy place of the Muslims, Jerusalem, and have either set it on fire or humiliated it. It is the Israeli Zionists and their American backers who shed the blood of thousands of Palestinian old men, women, children, and youths in Sabra and Shatilla. It is the U.S. AWACS which, with their American infidels, fly over the sacred airspace of Kaa'ba and the pure tomb of the great prophet of Islam, Mohammed — peace be upon him and his family.

God curses those who lie, particularly those who falsely portray themselves and who, in practice, work against Islam and Muslims for imperialist interests, engaged in the massacre of the rightful followers of the path of God and of his messenger so as not to let Muslims liberate themselves from the captivity of centuries or propogate the orders of God so as to create a society of justice and reason in their homelands.

This is not the first time that in the sacred Islamic land of Afghanistan, whose people have chosen the path of liberation from captivity and the yoke of colonialists and plunderers with the national-democratic April Revolution, the servants of imperialism and criminal rebels have attacked mosques, burned the Holy Koran, and killed religious leaders while they pray to God.

Last evening's explosion in the Polytechnic Mosque,in which four people who were performing prayers were martyred and another seven injured, had a special meaning for these enemies of Islam and Muslims, these enemies of the faith of Heaven and God. It took place on the same day as the international conspiracy held under the name of so-called Afghanistan day.

The boss of the murderers in the White House had intended to celebrate this day by setting fire to the house of God. We ask Almighty God for refuge from such a big sin, from such an obvious blasphemy, and from such blatant hostility to the sacred religion of Islam! Almighty God says: Those who deliberately kill a faithful person will have a place in the abyss of hell. [Koranic verse]

The Washington bosses express beast-like revenge against every Muslim who is not in imperialist slavery and not at the service of the interests of these burners of civilizations and against any mosque and place of worship not within the limits of the arrogant sway of the U.S. forces or of their slaves.

This incident has provoked the unending indignation and profound hatred of our Muslim people. The Council of Ulema and Religious Leaders of the DRA informs the noble and patriotic Muslims of the country and of the world of this incident. Once again, their attention is turned to this fact that the false claimants of Islam — the seditious rebels whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of innocent Muslims of our Islamic country; those criminals who have sold themselves to America and the English; these primary enemies of Islam and the Muslims of the world; thieves, plunderers, and highway robbers who have covered their faces under the mask of Islam and kill ulema, the servants of the faith of the Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him and his family — burn mosques or destroy them with grenades, set fire to the sacred book of God, and commit thousands of other unforgiveable crimes. Who are they?

We ulema and religious leaders of the DRA, who met in the conference of the Council of the DRA Ulema and Religious Leaders, ask you Muslim compatriots and you people of the world to see with receiving heart and open eyes what shameful daring with which these savage rebels, through the instigation of their infidel masters, attack the sacred places of Islam on the pretense of defending Islam

Religious tradition and the Koran very clearly state that the defense of the national democratic revolution and the defense of the homeland is the sacred duty of all Muslims; those who encroach on Afghanistan and disrupt the peaceful life of our people are taghi and baghi [rebellious against God] and jihad against them is the sacred duty of every Muslim of our homeland.

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Lebanon

Security Situation — The Security Arrangements Committee met at the French contingent's headquarters in Beirut and decided that Internal Security Forces will be stationed in positions now occupied by the contingent, Beirut radio reported. The committee also agreed that the area to be vacated by the French will be deemed "neutral" and that the road through the Museum crossing point will be kept open. Meanwhile, French forces continued their gradual withdrawal from Beirut, AFP noted.

In West Beirut all parties abided by the agreement to withdraw gunmen from the streets and allow the Internal Security Forces and the Army's 6th Brigade to maintain security, allowing shops to reopen and eliciting public "satisfaction," Beirut radio reported. However, the calm was subsequently broken by violent artillery exchanges across the contact lines between West and East Beirut, the radio noted. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that 6 people were killed and 30 others wounded in the eastern sector by the shelling, which it claimed was instigated by gunmen in West Beirut and the southern suburb. On the other hand, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio accused the Christian side of attempting to advance under cover of mortar and tank fire.

Threat to Junblatt; NSF Role — The Islamic Jihad organization holds Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt fully responsible for the "humiliation" of Muslims in West Beirut and considers him an "agent" of Israel, an anonymous caller told a news agency in remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Junblatt and his forces should withdraw from Beirut immediately, the caller warned, and Muslims who do not resign from the PSP before 30 April will be "executed." Meanwhile, the Voice of Lebanon held PSP forces responsible for a number of recent kidnappings in West Beirut. As for the National Salvation Front (NSF), Junblatt denied that he is seeking to replace it with a new opposition group, asserting that its institutions will remain effective and active, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Political Developments — Sources close to the government expect President Amin al-Jumayyil to convene the Higher Security-Political Committee within 48 hours, Beirut radio announced on 27 March. The radio also cited reports from Damascus calling recent talks between Al-Jumayyil's personal envoy and Syrian leaders "encouraging." Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed in a *TIME* interview broadcast by Damascus television that Syria will "completely" support a national unity government stemming from national accord and will respond "without hesitation" to its request for a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon after Israel's withdrawal.

Jordan

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip received a "warm official reception" on their 26 March arrival for a visit to Jordan at King Husayn's invitation, Amman radio announced. Commenting on the Palestinian "tragedy" in a dinner speech reported by Amman television, the queen said that her government will continue to "support all constructive efforts to achieve a peaceful, just, and lasting solution" to this problem in accordance with UN principles.

Iraqi-Egyptian Relations

Egypt "fully supports" Iraq and will "not hesitate to offer any military aid requested" by it, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali announced in a 26 March press conference reported by INA. Egypt also intends to begin a "new diplomatic move" with nonaligned countries to reach a formula for ending the Iraq-Iran war, 'Ali stated. Before leaving Baghdad, the Egyptian official met with President Saddam Husayn to discuss bilateral relations, developments in the Arab homeland, and the war with Iran, INA reported. 'Ali described the meeting as "important" and called the countries' viewpoints on regional problems "identical," Cairo radio added. The two sides also discussed the "advanced relations" between their countries and ways to further promote them, INA noted. According to remarks cited by AFP, 'Ali said his visit did not mean that diplomatic relations will be normalized.

Iraq

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with Donald Rumsfeld on 26 March to discuss bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the Iran-Iraq war, INA reported.

An Iraqi was wounded when a bomb exploded inside the British Consulate in Baghdad on 26 March, AFP announced citing an "informed source." The man is suspected of having planted the bomb himself, according to the source.

PLO Affairs

The Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee has decided to postpone the 30 March Cairo conference in support of the Palestinian people in response to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's request, MENA announced. 'Arafat proposed 15 May as an alternate date for the conference, after the meetings of the PNC, MENA added.

Meanwhile, 'Arafat arrived in Algiers on 26 March and held talks with the Algerian president and foreign minister, Algiers radio reported.

Kuwait

The state security court sentenced 6 men to death and 14 others to various prison terms for their part in the explosions at U.S., French, and other installations on 12 December 1983, KUNA reported. Three of those condemned to death are still at large.

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BAKHTAR Criticizes Efforts To Unite Rebels

LD270938 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0435 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 26, BAKHTAR — A political commentator of the BIA writes: The Western propaganda machines nowadays more than any other time confess to the fact that the undeclared war against Afghanistan did not produce the results which they wanted.

At the same time the revolutionary power has consolidated ever further. Moreover, the Western propaganda machines report with regret about the division and disunity among the various counter-revolutionary bands. The enmity and hatred among the counter-revolutionary bands is so widespread that they can not hide it by keeping mum.

Not withstanding these hard realities, imperialists continue its [as received] undeclared war against the DRA. They do not refrain from their efforts to bring under one shelter the mercenary ring-leaders of the counter-revolution and to form a united organization of the bandits.

The world imperialism, in order to achieve its aim, has used powers of different description. [This] time they have brought to the forefront another notorious person, i.e., Amen Wakman, the leader of the dissolved Afghan Milat group. The services and connections of Amen Wakman with the imperialist FRG are known to everyone.

According to the confessions made by the imprisoned ring-leaders of the dissolved fascistic Afghan Milat band, the emigre leaders of the band are in the service of CIA and intelligence service of Great Britain.

At the time prior to the April Revolution, Amen Wakman and his counter-revolutionary fascist band along with the royal retinue participated in the treacherous plots to whip up division and enmity between the brother nationalities residing in Afghanistan. Amen Wakman and his counter-revolutionary fascist band covered themselves under a nationalistic mask and disguised their out-worn and ugly thoughts as some sort of social-democratic slogans.

In the prerevolutionary time, they were in the service of the extremist and most reactionary wing of the ruling circles.

After the triumph of the April Revolution, Amen Wakman and his counter-revolutionary band again masqueraded as social democrats.

Along with the most reactionary elements of international reaction and imperialism they launched counter-revolutionary activities against the April Revolution.

The experience once again will show that this mediation as the previous ones will be a useless one. Amen Wakman, like his predecessors, will fail in the counter-revolutionary schemes worked out in Pentagon and CIA.

President Babrak Karmal's New Year Address

LD201941 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Statement by President Babrak Karmal on occasion of Afghan new year; date, place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: I warmheartedly congratulate you sister and brother compatriots and farmers and toilers of the country on the arrival of the new year, the festival of Nowruz, the festival of peasants, the beginning of a new spring, the festival of work and toil, the festival of peace and tranquillity, and the festival of fraternity and equality.

Toiling compatriots of the country, during the just-ending year, despite huge problems and intensification of the undeclared war by imperialism and reaction against our revolutionary homeland, and notwithstanding the lunatic designs of these forces to stagnate the process of revolutionary changes in the country, our people, under the leadership of the PDPA, took firm steps toward a glorious future and the realization of democratic changes in the interests of the toilers. During 1362 [year ending 20 March 1984], efforts toward maintaining peace and security throughout the country, eliminating the counterrevolutionaries, and neutralizing the conspiracies of reaction and imperialism were the main tasks of the party and revolutionary sovereignty.

As a result of the measures taken by the government, our people's liberating Armed Forces have grown and become stronger. The revolution defense groups, self-defense, revolution guards, and tribal units and militia were further consolidated and strengthened. The process of joining the people's strata and classes to the revolution was greatly accelerated. Thousands of members who had joined the ranks of counterrevolutionaries as a result of deception and other reasons joined our revolutionary state and are actively taking part in defending the revolution and its gains.

As a result of the relentless fight and heroic struggle of the courageous Armed Forces and voluntary units and groups, strong and shattering blows were dealt the counterrevolution. The forces of reaction and imperialism and the mercenary servants and traitors to the homeland will never forget the defeats they have seen during the year. The events of 1362 [break in transmission] and the neutralization of efforts made by internal and external counterrevolutionaries, the economy compared with last year has seen further improvement, stability, and growth; relative economic stability has been maintained.

As a result of the realization of the instructions of the 11th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, production growth in the agriculture, livestock, and industrial production and increase in internal gross production is about 6 percent. The volume of trade and transport has grown. In the area of social services, education, training, health, and communications, successes have also been achieved.

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Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi Air Activity — A formation of Iraq's Super Etendard aircraft attacked and "completely destroyed" two large "naval targets" in the area southwest of Khark Island, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad radio on 27 March. At the same time, Iraqi planes dealt a "strong blow" to an Iranian oil pumping station near Khorramabad, scoring direct and accurate hits, the spokesman added. Iraq's military communique for 27 March, broadcast by the radio, said that Iraqi aircraft also raided an Iranian air defense system on the southern front east of Basra.

Although monitored Iranian media did not mention an Iraqi air attack on shipping near Khark Island, Tehran radio confirmed that Iraqi planes raided targets near Khorramabad andreported that Iraqi planes bombed Pol-e Dokhtar, a small town located near oil fields southwest of Khorramabad. Meanwhile, Athens radio announced that a Greek tanker was hit by a rocket in the Gulf, adding that efforts were under way to tranship the oil from the tanker so that the vessel can be repaired.

Chemical Weapons, Mediation — Welcoming the UN delegation's report confirming Iraq's use of chemical weapons, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati called on the UN Security Council to adopt a clear-cut position and condemn the Iraqi Government, according to IRNA. In another development, Algerian FLN Political Bureau member Mohamed Cherif Messaadia denied recent reports that Algeria has formulated a plan to end the Iran-Iraq war but stressed that his country is still making mediation efforts to end the conflict, QNA reported.

Israel

The Knesset elections apparently will be held in July, although Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres will meet again shortly to finalize the date, IDF Radio announced in a report on the outcome of a 28 March meeting between the Likud and Alignment leaders. Noting that the Alignment wants the elections early in July while Likud prefers to hold them later, the radio said it is improbable that this difference will prevent Shamir and Peres from reaching an agreement.

Jordan

Jordan is holding talks with the British Government to purchase 1,100 surface-to-air antiaircraft missiles after the United States suspended Jordan's request for Stinger missiles, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing Western diplomatic sources in Amman. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri met with British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Richard Luce to review bilateral relations and the Middle East situation, Amman radio stated.

Saudi Arabia

The Saudi Cabinet is studying the idea of national military conscription and whether it should be compulsory, King Fahd announced in an open dialogue with students broadcast by Riyadh radio on 26 March.

Iran

Two Turkish diplomats were wounded in an assassination attempt in Tehran early on 28 March, IRNA reported. A Turkish Foreign Ministry statement cited by Ankara Radio held Armenian terrorists responsible for the attacks and said Turkey has asked Iran to take measures to protect Turkish Embassy personnel in Tehran.

Lebanon

A French diplomat was shot and seriously wounded while traveling to work at the French Embassy, Beirut and Paris radios reported. Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon radio said that clashes continued across the contact lines, injuring about 20 people in East Beirut. The Islamic Jihad Organizaton claimed responsibility for subsequent explosions in Druze shops in West Beirut, according to the Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tunis on 27 March after concluding talks with high-ranking officials in Algeria, Tunis radio announced. Before leaving, 'Arafat announced that Algeria will host the fifth Fatah Conference and the 17th PNCsession although he did not provide dates for either, the radio added.

Egypt

Reports that ground, sea, and air borders with Libya will be opened on 29 March are "totally untrue," an official source cited by MENA announced. Such a move should be preceded by an agreement between the two countries based on a "genuine wish" to foster interaction and should not be made unilaterally, the official added.

Meanwhile, President Husni Mubarak, in a 27 March speech reported by MENA, commended President Reagan's "firm stand" in rejecting recent proposals by "irresponsible quarters" to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He warned those who support such a move that they are subjecting U.S. interests to "immense danger and great jeopardy."

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Weather,Technical Problems Cause MIG-17 Crash

LD271811 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] A DRA Defense Ministry spokesman reported that an Air Force MIG-17 that took off from Kandahar airbase on 25 March on a training flight ran into bad weather and had technical problems. The pilot became lost, left Kandahar airspace, and crashed after running out of fuel.

The pilot, Lieutenant Hashim was killed in the crash. His body was handed over to Afghan authorities in (Espinboldak) by personnel of the Afghan Consulate in Quetta.

AFP: Rebel Attacks on Tankers Spark Gasoline Shortage

BK271514 Hong Kong AFP in English 1503 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Islamabad, March 27 (AFP) — Repeated guerrilla attacks on oil tanker trucks bringing fuel from the Soviet Union have sparked a severe gasoline shortage in Afghanistan, forcing Soviet troops to reduce their military activities, Western diplomatic sources here said.

The shortage, said to be the worst since the Soviet invasion four years ago, has obliged Soviet and government forces to cancel training flights at the Kabul and Bagram air bases and limit the number of MIG and helicopter sorties, the diplomats said.

According to reports from Western diplomats posted in the Afghan capital, Moslem guerrillas have succeeded in destroying some 60 tanker trucks in the past week near the Salang Pass through the Hindu Kush mountains north of Kabul.

Unconfirmed reports said mujahedeen on horseback had also attacked Soviet fuel convoys in the northern Afghan plain between Pul-e-Khumri and the Soviet river port of Hairatan.

In Kabul, gasoline shortages have reduced traffic by three-fourths, diplomats said. Only government and military vehicles and some taxis could obtain gas freely, while severe rationing forced ordinary motorists to wait up to four hours in line.

Sources said the attacks represented a concerted effort by several guerrilla factions, including the mujahedeen of Ahmad Shah Masud who were hoping to delay the start of an expected Soviet offensive in the strategic Panjshir Valley.

Military experts here said the logistical problems in supplying the 105,000-strong Soviet occupying force were formidable, especially in the absence of rail transportation in Afghanistan. The attacks on supply convoys showed the guerrillas had reached a new level of effectiveness, they said.

Security Forces' Operations Against Rebels Noted

LD201802 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] A BAKHTAR information agency correspondent reports from Paktia Province that an operation carried out by the security forces of the province in the Spinah Khowlah and (Wazah Khowlay) areas resulted in 32 traitors to the homeland and people belonging to murderer bands being crushed. A quantity of weapons and equipment was seized from thse criminals.

An operation carried out in the Chahar Bagh-e Laghman by the security forces of the province resulted in 13 rebels being killed; 26 assorted weapons, 1,500 rounds of ammunition, mortar shells, and 2 loudspeakers were seized from these lunatics. Two equipment stores, a foodstuff depot, and eight gun emplacement locations were destroyed.

An operation by the vigilant forces in the (Nezam-e Shaid) District of Herat Province resulted in 20 rebels being killed. A quantity of weapons, equipment, and antistate documents were seized from these criminals.

An operation in the villages of Ghowr Province resulted in seven rebels and their weapons being captured. During another operation in (Baba Qashqar) village in the Nahr-e Shahi District by the vigilant security forces of Balkh Province, one rebel leader belonging to the Harakat-e Eslami [as heard] criminal band was captured. Documents and a quantity of antistate papers were seized from him.

An operation carried out in the villages of (Chamtal) District, Balkh Province, resulted in 10 traitors to the homeland and people belonging to criminal rebels bands being crushed.

Samangan Province

LD211723 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] A number of the counterrevolutionary elements belonging to Khalis band, who had been disrupting the peaceful life of the toiling people in Shorqol village, Hazrat-e Soltan Subdistrict, Samangan Province, recently were crushed by the vigilant security forces of the country; another 10 of them, led by Zalmy, were arrested. A security source said three various weapons, a quantity of ammunition, and hand grenades made in China and Pakistan were seized.

Voice of Islamic Revolution: Draftees Attack Recruiters

GF221931 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1700 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The struggle of the Islamic mujahidin throughout our beloved country continues against the Soviet forces and the forces of the puppet regime. According to reports, recent draftees into Karmal's Army attacked Army recuiters in Rish Khvor. The report says that in this armed clash, some 60 officers and men of the puppet regime were killed.

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Lebanon

Beirut Situation — The security situation "seriously deteriorated" on 28 March as over 20 persons were killed and 100 others were wounded in "indiscriminate" shelling of residential quarters in and around the capital, Beirut radio reported. The shelling was concentrated on the western sector where several men from the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade were among the casualties, the radio said. Artillery and rocket fire also hit Christian East Beirut and the coastal area up to Antilyas, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Earlier, an unidentified gunman killed a French lieutenant near the Saudi Embassy in West Beirut, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported.

In the wake of the renewed fighting, both the Security Arrangements Committee and the Higher Political Security Committee held meetings to discuss the security situation, according to Beirut radio. The Higher Political Security Committee, which met in the Presidential Palace under President Amin al-Jumayyil's chairmanship, agreed on "several points" and decided to stop the indiscriminate shelling of residential quarters and open the Museum road under the supervision of the Internal Security Forces, the radio said. The Security Arrangements Committee approved measures for the replacement of the French force, which is expected to operate for several days in conjunction with the Internal Security Forces before withdrawing from Beirut. Despite the withdrawal of its troops, France has agreed to send a 40-man military observation team to Beirut to monitor the cease-fire, AFP reported citing an External Relations Ministry announcement.

In another development, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio has resumed transmissions and was heard broadcasting a message from Al-Murabitun leader Ibrahim Qulaylat.

Southern Lebanon — Beirut radio reported that 7 people were killed and 30 others were wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers in the southern township of Jibshit. IDF Radio said the clashes were between Shi'ite villagers and the "southern Lebanese army," which killed 3 villagers and wounded 10 others in an exchange of fire. Several dozen inhabitants were arrested in connection with recent attacks on the IDF, which include an incident on 28 March in which two IDF soldiers were wounded in an ambush north of An-Nabatiyah, according to IDF Radio.

Iran-Iraq War

The Greek tanker hit by an Iraqi missile on 28 March was some 110 km southwest of Khark Island near the Saudi coast at the time of the incident, IRNA announced citing remarks by a spokesman for Iran's War Information Headquarters. Overwhelmed by "war jitters" and frustrated by "repeated political and military defeats," Iraq has resorted to "adventurism" and "insane activities" to create the impression that the Persian Gulf is unsafe, the spokesman added. Since Iran is doing all it can to maintain security in the region, the "whole responsibility" for any mishap jeopardizing the Gulf rests with Iraq, he warned.

Meanwhile, the Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 28 March reported that 47 civilians were killed and over 84 were injured in the 27 March Iraqi bombing of the Andimeshk and Pol-e Dokhtar districts of Khorramabad.

Libya

Unless the United States "immediately withdraws" from Egypt and Sudan, Libya will "seriously" consider altering the strategic balance in the area by offering facilities on the Libyan coast to "a superpower which is hostile to the United States," thereby rendering "worthless" U.S. and NATO installations in the Mediterranean, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared in a speech broadcast by Tripoli radio. Regarding relations with Egypt, Al-Qadhdhafi announced that Libya will ease travel restrictions and allow free movement of Libyans and Egyptians in both directions. Nevertheless, the Egyptian regime will remain on the "blacklist" unless it emerges from the "Camp David stable," in which case Libya will place all its resources at Egypt's disposal, the Libyan leader affirmed.

Syria

Five men, including a policeman, were executed in Damascus on 28 March for criminal activities ranging from robbery to desertion from military service, SANA announced.

PLO Affairs

Despite the events in northern Lebanon last year, "we want to point out our availability to open a new page with the Syrian Brothers," PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said in remarks reported by APS. Meanwhile, the DFLP, PFLP, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party issued a joint statement calling for a "wider national front within the framework of the PLO," Aden radio stated. This invitation is open to all factions and personalities and is not meant to be an alternative to the PLO, nor would it set up establishments parallel to it, the four groups stated.

Iran

According to the Interior Ministry, two suspects have been arrested in connection with the 28 March assassination attempts against two Turkish diplomats in Tehran, IRNA reported. Investigations into the identity of another "terrorist" who was killed earlier while attempting to plant a bomb in a car belonging to the Turkish ambassador to Tehran determined that he was a member of an "Armenian terrorist group," Tehran radio added.

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Sikh Leader Dies Following 28 March Attack

BK290316 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] The president of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara [Temple] Management Committee, Mr Harbans Singh Manchanda, died in New Delhi last night following a cardiac arrest. Mr Manchanda and two others were admitted to the hospital with bullet injuries yesterday. Our correspondent Mohan Singh says doctors successfully performed two operations lasting about 6 hours, but when the operation of the jaw was to take place, Mr Manchanda developed cardiac trouble.

The other three [as heard] injured are improving. They were injured when two Sikh youths fired on them in New Delhi while traveling in a car.

The assailants have escaped. A massive hunt has been launched. A 25,000-rupee reward has been announced for any person providing clues. According to agency reports, an organization with headquarters in Anandpur Sahib has claimed the responsibility for the shooting.

The president, Giani Zail Singh, has expressed grief over the death of Mr Manchanda. He described the killing as an unfortunate act. He said to eliminate a person because of differences is against democratic traditions and Sikhism.

AFP: 'Hit Squad' Responsible

BK281200 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Excerpts] New Delhi, March 28 (AFP) — A Sikh hit squad today shot and seriously wounded two moderate Sikh leaders here who police said were on a "hit list" of followers of hardliner Sikh leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Harbang Singh Manchanda, president of the Delhi Sikh Shrines Management Committee, and committee member T.S. Lamba were gunned down by three men in a hail of machiegun fire when their car stopped at a traffic light in central Delhi, police said. The two men, who suffered multiple bullet wounds in the chest and stomach, were in hospital in "very critical" condition, they said. Mr. Machanda's bodyguard and driver were unhurt.

Three attackers, who were following Mr. Manchanda's car, fled in their own vehicle following the shooting, police said, adding that a massive manhunt had been launched to find the killers.

Today's assassination attempt was the first individual attack carried out in the capital by Sikh death squads which, until now, operated primarily in Punjab State.

Meanwhile, two Sikh gunmen in a Punjab villge yesterday shot and killed a leader of the Sikh breakaway Nirankari sect, PTI said in a report from Chandigarh, the state capital. The agency said the unidentified gunmen also wounded two other Nirinkari leaders in the attack, which occurred as the three were returning home from a religious meeting in a village of Sangrur District. The two injured men were taken to Ludhiana hospital where their condition was serious, PTI added.

Gandhi Condemns Attack

BK281618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister has expressed shock at the cowardly attempt on the life of Mr Manchanda and prayed for his complete recovery. In a letter to Mr Manchanda, she said it was tragic that young people were being misguided into attacking the very elements who provide leadership and guidance. This was the part of the mindlessness of extremism which was growing everywhere. Mrs Gandhi said: We must all join to fight such elements who have no place in the country for which the inspiration came from men like Guru Nanek and Mahatama Gandhi.

Stricter Security Expected

BK290734 Hong Kong AFP in English 0722 GMT 29 Mar 84

[By Joel Henri]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, March 29 (AFP) — The Indian government is to announce stricter security measures today following the death during the night of a moderate Sikh leader gunned down yesterday by an alleged Sikh extremist "hit squad." An official communique said that an emergency cabinet meeting drew up the new security plans after the attack in central Delhi against Harbang Singh Marchanda, chief administrator of Sikh temples in the capital. Interior Minister P.C. Sethi will present the measures to parliament today, it added.

In another incident yesterday, a federal police officer was killed and two others injured by a grenade thrown by unidentified attackers in Ferozepur, about 40 kilometers (24 miles) from the Punjab state capital of Chandigarh.

Yesterday's attack was the first against an individual in the capital in 20 months of protest action by Sikhs demanding greater autonomy for Punjab State. Police launched a massive dragnet and announced a reward of 25,000 rupees (2,500 dollars) — more than eight times the national average income — for the killers, who were still at large today.

Meanwhile, the state administration in Punjab, where some 30,000 federal paramilitary troops have already been stationed as a result of the violence, has decided to create 1,000 armed units comprising several dozen men each to guard the state's railways. Section of track have been loosened three times in the past three days in the state in an apparent attempt to derail trains, but the incidents were discovered before any damage was caused.

In a separate development, the Akali Dal yesterday rejected an appeal by leftist parties and unions in Punjab for a reconciliation aimed at allowing harvests to begin on schedule April 13. Punjab, a rich wheat-farming state, lost an estimated 45 million dollars last year as a result of the political troubles, the conservative *FINANCIAL EXPRESS* has reported.

Reports from Chandigarh said that leftist party militants, including Communist Party members and trade unionists, yesterday vowed to resort to violence in countering attacks by armed Sikh extremists. At a meeting in the state capital, the political activists

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Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes "directly and effectively" hit four "large naval targets" in the Khowr-e Musa area, northeast of the Arab Gulf, on 29 March, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio announced citing a military spokesman. Two Iranian helicopters sent to rescue the crews of the vessels were also attacked and destroyed. This action shows that "destructive blows" will continue to be dealt to "all enemy naval and air targets in the prohibited military zone," the spokesman concluded.

Iraqi planes and helicopter gunships also inflicted "massive losses" on Iranian positions east of Basra, the communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses on 29 March reported. The Iranian communique for the same period, carried by Tehran radio, reported exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire on various battlefronts but did not mention any Iraqi air attacks.

Lebanon

A second meeting of the Higher Political Security Committee under the chairmanship of President Amin al-Jumayyil was held on 29 March, Beirut radio reported. Discussion centered on the "disengagement" of combatants and the reopening of all public utilities. Meanwhile, intermittent sniper fire continued in Beirut's southern suburb on 29 March while Lebanese Army positions came under fire in the mountain areas, according to clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Soldiers of the French contingent continued to evacuate positions in the Museum road area on 30 March and move to Beirut port, Voice of Lebanon radio stated.

In other developments Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri met with the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon to discuss the latest developments, especially recent clashes in the south, Voice of Lebanon reported. The radio also announced that Soviet official Karen Brutents will meet with Foreign Minister Elie Salim in Beirut "next week."

Israel

Former President Yitzhaq Navon, in an announcement broadcast by Jerusalem radio on 30 March, said that he will not compete for the Alignment leadership in the upcoming election. Such a contest would prevent "internal consolidation" and could lead the Alignment to the election "weakened and at odds with itself," he explained.

Incidents in West Bank, Gaza

Two Arab youths in a refugee camp near Nabulus were wounded when Israelis shot at them, Jerusalem radio reported. An investigation into reasons for the shooting is currently under way, the radio added. Meanwhile, three DF soldiers and seven local residents were wounded on 29 March when a hand grenade was thrown at an IDF patrol in the Gaza Strip, IDF Radio stated. According to Radio Monte Carlo, the PFLP in Damascus has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Chedli Klibi was reelected secretary general of the Arab League for the next 5 years during the 81st Arab League Council session currently under way in Tunis, INA reported. In meetings being held on the periphery of the session, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to discuss bilateral relations and developments in the Palestinian situation, INA added. 'Aziz also held separate meetings with his Jordanian and YAR counterparts to discuss topics on the Council's agenda.

Meanwhile, the seven-member League foreign ministers committee set up at the emergency conference in Baghdad to find a way of ending the Iran-Iraq war also began a session in Tunis, KUNA announced.

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Foreign Ministry Condemns Malaysian PM's Statement

LD291733 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] During a visit to the so-called refugee camps in Tarbili, the prime minister of Malaysia, who recently visited Pakistan, said that Malaysia will continue its material and moral support for the refugees and will be at the side of the people of Afghanistan in their struggle for their country's freedom. The Malaysian prime minister also announced his agreement concerning the formation of an agency for the so-called Union of Afghan Mujahidin in Kuala Lumpur.

In reply to a question by a BAKHTAR reporter, the DRA Foreign Ministry spokesman said in connection with the statement by the Malaysian prime minister:

The Malaysian prime minister's visit to a camp of bandits and agents of imperialism and his (?promise) to increase aid to the criminals who are encroaching upon and plundering the sacred soil of our homeland and disrupting the peaceful life and work of the courageous people of our country to develop their beloved homeland provokes the deep indignation in every Afghan patriot. Such a statement by the Malaysian head of government is nothing but blatant interference in the internal affairs of our independent and sovereign country.

Malaysia's establishment of official relations with antistate elements against a state which is a member with full rights of the United Nations is in complete contravention of international laws and norms of interstate relations. This act by Malaysia (?does not help) in any way whatever the policy of decreasing international tension, (?decreasing) the tense situation in Asia, and the creation of friendly relations among countries of the region, including the Islamic countries. On the contrary, this policy of the Malaysian leadership regarding Afghanistan will only intensify tension in the region and become a tool in the hands of international imperialism headed by the United States.

It is regrettable that, by pursuing such a policy in connection with the so-called Afghanistan question, the Government of Malaysia is following in the steps of the United States and its allies and by [words indistinct] specific actions, in collaboration with other reactionary regimes in the region, is entering the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan.

Those who assist elements treacherous to the homeland and people of Afghanistan in fact approve of aggression against the DRA and join the ranks of forces who are hostile to our people and the national-democratic revolution. This policy of Malaysia toward the DRA is narrow minded, unrealistic, and hostile, and therefore we condemn it resolutely. This policy is contrary to the interests of the people of Malaysia, and also overlooks the will of the people of the world for national and social liberation from the chains of imperialism, colonialism, and reaction.

Visits by official representatives of states, the continuation of aggression against independent Afghanistan, and their statements concerning increasing aid to the counterrevolutionary bands can never (?intimidate) the courageous and freedom-loving people of Afghanistan. The revolutionary people of Afghanistan vigorously condemn the continuous conspiracies of the forces of imperialism, hegemonism, and reaction, and are ready to deal a shattering blow to every kind of design to encroach on their freedom and independence.

Economic Consultative Council Holds Session

LD300609 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] A session of the Economic Consultative Council was held yesterday afternoon in the Ministry of Commerce. It was chaired by Mohammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce and chairman of the Economic Consultative Council.

The BIA correspondent reports that the minister of commerce first recalled the resolution of PDPA Central Committee Politburo dated 28 Hout 1362 [18 March 1984] on the state of the country's national economy and explained the future consultative duty of the Economic Consultative Council in connection to the above issue and past activities of this council.

The secretary of the Economic Consultative Council, in accordance with the agenda, then presented the report of accomplishments regarding the resolutions of the past session which was then approved.

The report of the production committee on the improvement of production and export of carpets was then considered. The report of the production committee was approved in principle. It was decided that the specification, determination of various wool work, variety of colors and their guarantee of advance, as well as supply and distribution directly to producers in the nearest location where the new design of carpet is being worked out in accordance with the demands of the world's markets with the preservation of the country's traditional designs, should be carried out by the respective enterprises with the cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce.

The report of the finance and trade committee on the improvement of work in the import unions and the procedure for insurance of import and export commodities was then considered.

The report of the finance and trade committee about the insurance of commodities was approved as an alternative to the past views of the Economic Consultative Council.

The report of this committee on the improvement of work in import unions was approved after slight amendment and alterations.

At the end, a mixed commission on regulating the determination of prices — which is one of the major and important issues of the country — was appointed. It consists of the heads of the committees of the Economic Consultative Council, representatives of government organs, chambers of commerce, and representatives of various city guilds. The commission will consider the issue of prices and present to the council as soon as possible their views and proposals on major prices indices and formation of a system for fair prices.